

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending.


The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-10, 12-17, and 19-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gujral et al. (U.S. 2002/0042769) and Sobrado et al. (U.S. 6,980,966). Claims 2, 11, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gujral et al. (US 2002/0042769) and Sobrado et al. (U.S. 6,980,966) as applied to Claim 1 in further view of Heimermann et al. (U.S. 2002/0143692).

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(c), Gujral is unavailable as a reference. An assignment of the present application to Freemarkets, Inc. was recorded on April 22, 2002 at Reel/Frame 012817/0561. An assignment of Gujral to Freemarkets, Inc. was recorded on December 26, 2001, at Reel/Frame 012394/0594. Applicants respectfully request that any rejection based on Gujral be withdrawn. As the Examiner has cited Gujral against all pending claims, all claims are therefore believed to be allowable.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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